

**County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health**  
**OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

Thursday, June 25, 2009

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note that the minutes are a brief summary  
and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

**Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding**

**I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin**

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

**II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd**

Attendance recorded:

- Absent Excused: Lana Brody, George Caballero, Hayward McNeill, and Greg Thompson.
- Absent: Deputy Phillip Chen

**III. Approval of Minutes –**

**The minutes for the month of May 2009 were approved with corrections (Perrou/Sosa).**

**IV. Chair's Report:**

**2009-2010 Election** – Dr. Helen Wolff, Chair of the Nominating Committee called for a motion to approve the 2009-2010 nominated officers as presented at the May 28, 2009 Commission meeting:

**CHAIR** - Jerry Lubin

**VICE CHAIR** - Larry Gasco

**SECRETARY** - Greg Thompson

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**, Delores Huffman - Victoria Sofro, and Dr. Helen Wolff

**CALMHBC COORDINATOR** - Frank Baron

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barry Perrou and approved by unanimous vote.

- **MHC/SAAC Chair Meeting** – At its monthly meeting held June 9, 2009 Executive Director Terry Lewis reported the highlights of the meeting. The group continued to discuss projects and needs, PEI, and specifically budget cut issues -- how to plan for services when at the same time asked to cut services. Roberta Burkenheim, SAAC 2 Proxy handed out a resource book of free services available in Service Area 2. The resource book was compiled by Ms. Burkenheim and clients to assist people impacted by state program cuts find free services.

- **Executive Committee Meeting** – Larry Gasco, Vice Chair, reported on issues discussed at the Executive Committee meeting held June 11, 2009:
  1. **Annual Retreat** – The annual retreat was held Saturday, June 6, 2009 at the Community Center in Playa Vista. Mr. Gasco extended a special thank you to Dr. Southard for arranging the retreat location. Greg Thompson facilitated the activities that included:
    - Discussion/update on the current budget situation
    - Discussion on personal goals, interests, and the purpose for serving on the commission
    - Develop fiscal year 2009/2010 goals. Primary goals focused on older adults, homeless mentally ill and housing, and clients with both physical and mental disabilities.
  2. **Follow up on meeting with Chief of the Training Division** – Mr. Gasco will meet with Dennis Murata and Dr. Robin Kay to discuss the outlook of the annual conferences that were cancelled due to budget curtailments, Commission's participation in new employee orientation, and training possibilities for the DMH Training Division staff.
  3. **Community Reintegration Initiatives Presentation** – Dr. Kathleen Daly, Medical Director of Jail Mental Health Services attended the meeting along with three participants from the Women's Reintegration Program. Dr. Daly discussed the services available at the Jail Mental Health programs such as paid psychology internships, academic training, and employment opportunities for women in the jails. The presentation concluded with success stories from the participants, Liz Saacedra, Denise Fussell, and Pauletta Anthony who shared personal stories of recovery. They also spoke of how the Women's Reintegration Program has positively helped other women who are incarcerated.
  4. Educational and Occupational Therapy staffs, Kecia McDaniel and Liza Ruiz were also guest at the meeting and were introduced by Commissioner Victoria Sofro. Ms. McDaniel and Ms. Ruiz discussed plans to focus more on outreach by going out to where services are needed rather than waiting for the need to come to them.

A discussion took place regarding the expansion of the education and employment program. Dr. Southard spoke about the early relationship of education and employment was with the Department of Rehabilitation. It is the intent of DMH to move this function to the Wellness Centers.

## **V. Commissioner/Subcommittee Report**

**CALMHBC Quarterly Meeting and Conference** – Commissioners Larry Gasco, Delores Huffman, and Executive Director Terry Lewis attended the CALMHBC

(California Local Mental Health Board and Commissions) quarterly meeting and conference held June 18-20, 2009 in San Jose, California. Commissioner Huffman spoke on the following topics from the meeting:

- Election of officers – the current CALMHBC officers were reelected
- Meeting and conference was well attended. Fifty-eight counties currently represent the CALMHBC; 24 (41%) attended the meeting and conference. CALMHBC/C officers would like to see a higher participation number.
- Success stories/experiences were shared by participants from faith-based programs.
- Presentation by Judge Steven Manley – Judge Manley spoke about how he conducts his mental health court. His program discourages clients from reaching unrealistic goals. The criterion supports clients' strengths not weaknesses; therefore, no one gets an "F."
- CALMHBC has requested Los Angeles County to identify its representatives in these categories; a Coordinator and three alternates who will vote and attend the quarterly meetings.

**Commissioner Delores Huffman** – Ms. Huffman submitted the following Housing Services report:

#### MHSA Housing Trust Fund

Since the Board approval of the Housing Trust Fund contracts on May 19, 2009, the Department has begun to implement the program. The Department held the first Housing Trust Fund provider meeting on June 15, 2009 to discuss issues related to implementation.

#### MHSA Housing Program

As of May 28, 2009, the Expression of Interest for the MHSA Housing Program was suspended. As stated in the Expression of Interest, the Department would accept Letters of Interest on a flow basis until the Department determined that it was in receipt of a sufficient number of Letters of Interest for proposed projects to exhaust the current \$115 million allocation for the Los Angeles County MHSA Housing Program.

Any future notification of funding will be made available on the DMH website.

Thirty-two projects are actively participating in the MHSA Housing Program application process (see Attachment II). The status of each project is shown below:

#### Initiating Service Planning/Technical Review Process

- Swarthy World Society
- KIWA Apartments
- New Genesis Apartments
- NoHo Senior Villas
- Osborne Place Apartments

- Avalon II Family Apartments
- Menlo Family Housing
- PWC Family Housing
- VOALA Navy Village for Families
- Parker Hotel
- Step Up on Hollywood
- Parkview on the Park Apartments
- Horizon Apartments
- HW/Alvarado – To be Named Project
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)
- Tarzana Treatment Center Scattered Site Housing Project
- David & Margaret Home, Inc. – To be Named Project
- Willis Avenue Apartments

Finalizing Service Plan for Posting

- 28th St. YMCA Residences
- Epworth Apartments

Posted for 30 Day Public Review and Comment

- Caroline Severance Manor
- Bobbi Owens Family Living Community

Preparing Full Application for Submission

- Charles Cobb Apartments

Application Submitted to the State

- Figueroa Apartments
- Ford Apartments
- Villas at Gower
- Progress Place I and II

Approved for Funding by the State

- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Daniel's Village
- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Glenoaks Gardens

Ongoing & Upcoming Activities

The Department is currently meeting with cities and other local government entities who were recipients of Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funding about potential opportunities to leverage NSP funding with MHSA Housing Program funding.

The Department was recently awarded \$30,736 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded by the Emergency Food and Shelter Program National Board; this is federal stimulus funding administered at a local level by the Los Angeles County United Way. The funding will be utilized to supplement existing programs in Service Areas Two, Four, and Six to provide food and motel vouchers to mental health consumers who are homeless, as well as those who are non-traditional consumers of mental health services who may be in crisis due to the impact of the recession.

**VI. Departmental Report - Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Director discussed the following:**

- **Budget** – The department is on a “sprint” planning process to making adjustments for budget cuts. DMH will begin the new fiscal year with a \$17 million budget deficit. DMH estimates an additional \$36 million in managed care and fee for service cuts when the state budget is approved. Three groups meet weekly to address the critical economic position:
  1. Budget mitigation committee – Executive Management and System Leadership teams.
  2. Separate advisory group – contract provider issues
  3. Union advisory group – develop workforce principles, reorganize filling the gaps where services must be eliminated making them less and different.
- **Commission Awards/DMH 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration** – Dr. Southard announced tentative information regarding the Commission Awards program and DMH 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration. The tentative plan is a two-day event, May 20 -21, 2010. The celebration that will take place on May 20 will be at the California Endowment Center and an academic symposium take place at UCLA on May 21. The symposium will feature MHSA achievements and early outcomes, and the effectiveness of the planning process; in addition to clients sharing success stories of hope and recovery.

Dr. Southard asked Commissioners to take part on the planning committee to collaborate on the Commission’s award program activities. The Commission will identify a volunteer for the planning committee at the next Executive Committee meeting July 9, 2009.

**VII. Community and SAAC Chair Reports**

**SAAC Updates** – None

**Community Reports** – Adrienne Hament, LCSW, handed out and briefly discussed the Department of Mental Health Glossary of Terms booklet. The glossary is a living document created by UCLA MSW Intern Stephanie Bartsch in 2008. The document helps interested persons understand the terminologies and concepts used in the mental health system. This year the glossary was updated by two MSW interns, Kimberly Ngiangia from UCLA and Alicia Powell from CSULB.

**VIII. Public Comments –**

- **Chuck Hughes** – Questioned parts of the PEI that did not go through the stakeholders planning process and in violation of the MHSA. If the plan is approved by the Commission today it will open a can of worms for the Commission and for the County. (Dr Southard addressed Mr. Hughes' question. The parts Mr. Hughes questioned were reviewed by stakeholders.)
- **William Legere** – Discussed solutions to increase budget.
- **Elaine Des Roches** – The department should implement a planning period between intensive services and the Wellness Centers. There should be reciprocal services between them to prepare for relapse and crisis, to get back rapidly to progress towards wellness.

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**

**X. Next Meeting Information** – The information for the next meeting is below:

**Thursday, July 23, 2009**

**Noon – 2:30 pm**

**Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration**

**Room 739**

**500 West Temple Street**

**Los Angeles, California 90012**

Ch/ch